



RECEIVED

OCT 24 2002

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

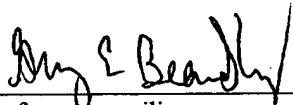
1652/4
PATENT
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 50093/016001

Certificate of Mailing: Date of Deposit: October 11, 2002

I hereby certify under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Guy E. Beardsley

Printed name of person mailing correspondence


Signature of person mailing correspondence

1652/4
G.J.
10/29/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Venkat Gopalan et al. Art Unit: 1652
Serial No.: 09/516,061 Examiner: Charles L. Patterson Jr.
Filed: March 1, 2000 Customer No.: 21559
Title: NOVEL BACTERIAL RNASE P PROTEINS AND THEIR USE IN
IDENTIFYING ANTIBACTERIAL COMPOUNDS

Commissioner For Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

In reply to the Office Action mailed April 11, 2002, applicants submit the following amendments and remarks.

Kindly amend the application as follows.

In the specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 8, lines 22-27, of the specification with the following paragraph that has been re-written in clean form.

B1
Fig. 1 shows the sequence alignment of previously known bacterial RNase P protein subunits using the ClustalW alignment program (Thompson et al.,